

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

October 10, 2019

Mr. Uttam Dhillon  
Acting Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrisette Drive  
Springfield, VA 22152

Dear Mr. Dhillon:

As Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and leaders of an investigation into opioid distribution, we are following up on the status of recommendations directed to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to address concerns outlined in the December 19, 2018 report, *Red Flags and Warning Signs Ignored: Opioid Distribution and Enforcement Concerns in West Virginia*. This report was prepared by the Republican then-Majority Committee staff.

While this report focused on a series of missteps and missed opportunities that contributed to the worsening of the opioid epidemic in West Virginia, the report raised grave concerns about the DEA's enforcement nationwide. The report included recommendations to improve DEA's programs and enforcement, including administrative changes. In addition, the recently enacted SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act included several provisions to respond to these concerns.

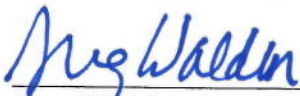
To assist our ongoing oversight and legislative efforts related to the opioid epidemic, we would appreciate the DEA providing a written summary of what actions it has taken or is taking to implement each of the following recommendations from the report that were directed to the DEA, as well as providing information on any barriers, legislative or otherwise, to the implementation of each recommendation:

- DEA should work to establish a data platform with third-party experts to provide more real-time data to registrants.

- DEA policies should mandate and clarify that all transfers of registrations should be fully evaluated and require DEA's approval, including any transfers effectuated through stock purchase agreements or through corporate ownership.
- DEA should establish guidance on delaying Immediate Suspension Orders or other administrative actions for the furtherance of parallel criminal investigations, including a limit on the amount of time the agency will delay action.
- DEA should evaluate the allotment of diversion resources to determine whether the regions worst afflicted by the opioid epidemic have adequate staffing and resources.

Please provide this written summary by November 11, 2019. Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Barblan or Alan Slobodin of the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

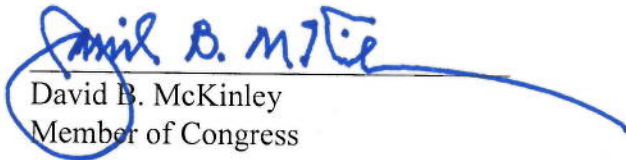
Sincerely,



Greg Walden  
Republican Leader



Brett Guthrie  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations



David B. McKinley  
Member of Congress